(b) In the recent past five foreign airlines namely Balken Bulgarian Airlines, Yugoslavian Airlines (JAT), Singapore Airlines Emirates Airlines and Alia Royal Jordanian Airlines have been offered right to operate through Calcutta Airport. Of these, only two Airlines, namely Singapore Airlines and Yugoslavian Airlines (JAT) have so far commenced their actual operations through Calcutta Airport with effect from 26-10-86 and 4-5-87 respectively.

Appointment of Chairman, Central Board of Secondary education

1221. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a delay in appointing the new Chairman for the Central Board of Secondary Education and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the reasons for allowing the present Chairman to continue even after his retirement?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The action to select the new Chairman for the Central Board of Secondary Education was initiated in October, 1986 and the candidate who was initially selected for the post subsequently declined to join. Accordingly, necessary action has already been initiated for the appointment of the next candidate in the panel os Chairman Central Board of Secondary Education.

(b) Under Rule 12(2) of the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Central Board of Secondary Education, the existing incumbent to the post of Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education can continue in office bevond the expiry of his term of apointment until his successor takes over.

Bundh in Maharashtra for abolition of Octroi

1222. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'bundhs' were observed in Maharashtra and other States in recent weeks to abolish octroi duties; and

(b) if so, whether this question was examined and any decision was taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) An anti-octroi Bundh was observed in the last week of May, 1987.

(b) Octroi is a State subject. The Central Government has been impressing upon the State Governments to abolish it.

Computer Training as Vocational Subject

1223. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of schools where computer training has already been introduced as a vocational subject; and

(b) what are the details of the programmes drawn up to introduce this subject in more schools during the rest of the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) A minimum competencies-based vocational curriculum on Computer Techniques was prepared by N.C.E.R.T. in 1983 and sent to some State Governments/ Boards of Secondary Education. In-

formation about the number of schools in which this course was eventually introduced is however, not available.

(b) The proposed Centrally-sponsored scheme of Vocationalization of Secondary Educational envisages a large programme to introduce vocational courses in schools which, *inter alia* would include computer-related vocational courses also.

Allocation of amount for medical University in Madras

1224. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu have asked for setting up of a Medical University in Madras; and

(b) if so, what amount has been allocated by the Centre for this new University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No amount has been allocated by the Centre for this new University.

Air India General Sales Agents in foreign countries

1225. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per policy of Government, only one General Sales Agency for air-tickets of Air India can be opened in one country;

(b) if so, what is the number of such agencies in each country;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that in so many countries more than one General Sales Agencies have been opened for sale of air-tickets of Air-India; if so, the names of such countries;

(d) what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Air-India has appointed G.S.A.s in various countries of the world in accordance with IATA Resolutions on the subject. Government has not laid down any policy in this regard.

(b) Air-India has four GSAs in India, two in Italy and four in Saudi Arabia. In other countries, where Air India has appointed GSAs, the number is restricted to one only.

(c) and (d) In India, Italy and Saudia Arabia, there is more than one GSA of Air-India; the reason being that different territories in a country have varying types of traffic and market conditions and in such areas it is necessary to evolve a special market strategy to ensure that Air-India keep its fares share of the market and, therefore, something more than one G.S.A. is appointed in the same country.

(e) No remedial action is considered necessary.

Banning of stalls on Railway Platforms

1226. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to ban the stalls on the platforms; and

(b) if so, what is the number of stalls closed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.